37. (AS NEW) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 17, further comprising implementing the specifying module for specifying the format file and the data file by a drag and drop function.

38. (AS NEW) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 17, further comprising setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation of specifying the format file and the data file that are displayed in the form of display objects.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 26, 2003, claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-20, and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Bence, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,484,178), claims 7, 14, and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bence, Jr. et al. in view of Hamada et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,807). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

New claims 23-38 are added. No new matter is presented.

Claims 1, 9, and 16 are independent claims. A Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to the Claims is included herewith.

Bence disusses a universal claims formatter. In the Bence apparatus, a computer system converts input file formats to a common file format. Bence shows in Fig. 5 thereof a screen displayed in the Examine Test Claim File function in an exemplary embodiment of the Bence apparatus. Bence, column 5, lines 45 to 46, discusses about Fig. 5 that "The screen initially shows the first portion of the first data record in the data file. The operator may scroll through the record using a standard scroll bar 10." That is, Fig. 5 of Bence shows not the data file itself but the contents of the file.

The Examiner's assertions that the specifying control unit of the present invention corresponds to "the submitted data file" and "finding a known data format that most closely matches the format of the client data file" (as discussed in column 1, lines 60-66 of Bence Jr.) are respectfully traversed. It does not appear that the submission of the submitted data file

corresponds to specifying in the specifying control unit of the present invention.

Moreover, Bence does not discuss or suggest setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format, as in the present invention.

Hamada shows a file list 32 and a file icon 33 in Figs. 3, 7, and 9. However, Hamada does not discuss or suggest implementing a specifying module for specifying any one of the format file and data file using the drag-and-drop function, as in the present invention (as recited in claim 7).

Bence in view of Hamada is a computer system converting input file formats to a common file format and a file list and a file icon.

In contrast to the foregoing references relied upon, each of independent claims 1, 9, and 16 of the present recites (using the recitation of claim 9 as an example) "implementing a display module for displaying at least one format file containing a fixed format, and at least one data file containing item data to be set to the fixed format", "implementing a specifying module for specifying any one of the format file and the data file, and also specifying the other category of file from this one file", and "setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation".

Moreover, the dependent claims of the subject application recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 23/1 recites "the format file and the data file are displayed as a list".

In addition to the above, neither Bence, Jr., nor Hamada discloses or suggests displaying a format file and a data file as a list.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections and allowance of claims 1-38 is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Jan 28, 2003

By: _____
Gene M. Garner II
Registration No. 34,172

1201 New York Avenue, NW Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 434-1500

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A data processing system comprising:

a display control unit [of] implementing a display module [for] displaying at least one format file containing a fixed format, and at least one data file containing item data to be set to the fixed format;

a specifying control unit [of] implementing a specifying module [for] specifying any one of the format file and the data file, and also specifying the other category of file from this one file; and

a setting unit [for] setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation.

2. (AS ORIGINAL) A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein when there are provided a plurality of format files or data files, said setting unit sets the item data to the fixed format of the format file, and creates the plurality of files at one time.

3. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein said setting unit sets the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file by a form overlay function in accordance with the specifying operation.

4. (TWICE AMENDED) A data processing system according to claim 1, further comprising a distinguishing unit [of] distinguishing between file formats of the specified format file and data file.

5. (AS ORIGINAL) A data processing system according to claim 4, wherein said distinguishing unit distinguishes between the file formats of the format file and the data file on the basis of any one category of element among extensions, file names and a file selection order.

6. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A data processing system according to claim 1, further comprising a print control unit of implementing a print module for printing contents of the item data

of the data file which have been set to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation.

7. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein said specifying control unit implements the specifying module for specifying the format file and the data file by a drag and drop function.

8. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A data processing system according to claim 1, wherein said setting unit sets the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation of specifying the format file and the data file that are displayed in the form of display objects.

9. (AS ORIGINAL) A data processing method comprising:

implementing a display module for displaying at least one format file containing a fixed format, and at least one data file containing item data to be set to the fixed format;

implementing a specifying module for specifying any one of the format file and the data file, and also specifying the other category of file from this one file; and

setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation.

10. (AS ORIGINAL) A data processing method according to claim 9, further comprising setting, when there are provided a plurality of format files or data files, the item data to the fixed format of the format file, and creating the plurality of files at one time.

11. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A data processing method according to claim 9, further comprising setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file by a form overlay function in accordance with the specifying operation.

12. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A data processing method according to claim 9, further comprising distinguishing between file formats of the specified format file and data file.

13. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A data processing method according to claim 9, further comprising implementing a print module for printing contents of the item data of the data file

which have been set to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation.

14. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A data processing method according to claim 9, further comprising implementing the specifying module for specifying the format file and the data file by a drag and drop function.

15. (AS ONCE AMENDED) A data processing method according to claim 9, further comprising setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation of specifying the format file and the data file that are displayed in the form of display objects.

16. (ONCE AMENDED) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program comprising:

[a step of] implementing a display module for displaying at least one format file containing a fixed format, and at least one data file containing item data to be set to the fixed format;

[a step of] implementing a specifying module for specifying any one of the format file and the data file, and also specifying the other category of file from this one file; and

[a step of] setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 16, further comprising [a step of] setting, when there are provided a plurality of format files or data files, the item data to the fixed format of the format file, and creating the plurality of files at one time.

18. (TWICE AMENDED) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 16, further comprising [a step of] setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file by a form overlay function in accordance with the specifying operation.

19. (TWICE AMENDED) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program

according to claim 16, further comprising [a step of] distinguishing between file formats of the specified format file and data file.

20. (TWICE AMENDED) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 16, further comprising [a step of] implementing a print module for printing contents of the item data of the data file which have been set to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation.

21. (TWICE AMENDED) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 16, further comprising [a step of] implementing the specifying module for specifying the format file and the data file by a drag and drop function.

22. (TWICE AMENDED) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 16, further comprising [a step of] setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation of specifying the format file and the data file that are displayed in the form of display objects.

Please add the following new claims 23-38:

23. (NEW) The data processing system as in claim 1, wherein the format file and the data file are displayed as a list.

24. (NEW) A data processing system according to claim 2, wherein said setting unit sets the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file by a form overlay function in accordance with the specifying operation.

25. (NEW) A data- processing system according to claim 2, further comprising a distinguishing unit distinguishing between file formats of the specified format file and data file.

26. (NEW) A data processing system according to claim 2, further comprising a print control unit implementing a print module printing contents of the item data of the data file which have been set to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation.

27. (NEW) A data processing system according to claim 2, wherein said specifying control unit implements the specifying module for specifying the format file and the data file by a drag and drop function.

28. (NEW) A data processing system according to claim 2, wherein said setting unit sets the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation of specifying the format file and the data file that are displayed in the form of display objects.

29. (NEW) A data processing method according to claim 10, further comprising setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file by a form overlay function in accordance with the specifying operation.

30. (NEW) A data processing method according to claim 10, further comprising distinguishing between file formats of the specified format file and data file.

31. (NEW) A data processing method according to claim 10, further comprising implementing a print module printing contents of the item data of the data file which have been set to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation.

32. (NEW) A data processing method according to claim 10, further comprising implementing the specifying module for specifying the format file and the data file by a drag and drop function.

33. (NEW) A data processing method according to claim 10, further comprising setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation of specifying the format file and the data file that are displayed in the form of display objects.

34. (NEW) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 17, further comprising setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file by a form overlay function in accordance with the specifying operation.

35. (NEW) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 17, further comprising distinguishing between file formats of the specified format file and data file.

36. (NEW) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 17, further comprising implementing a print module for printing contents of the item data of the data file which have been set to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation.

37. (NEW) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 17, further comprising implementing the specifying module for specifying the format file and the data file by a drag and drop function.

38. (NEW) A readable-by-computer medium recorded with a program according to claim 17, further comprising setting the item data of the data file to the fixed format of the format file in accordance with the specifying operation of specifying the format file and the data file that are displayed in the form of display objects.